

DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



State Dept. review completed

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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MORNING PAPERS.

FRIDAY October 22nd, 1948.

The Palestinian situation.
Press comments.

Egyptian claims of successes on the Southern front in Palestine are given special prominence by the Arabic press. The Egyptian war communiqué and the statements of Prime Minister Nokrashi Pasha and Secretary General of the Arab League Azzam Pasha are also given wide publicity. English translations of the story appear in the Egyptian Mail and there is no need therefore to repeat the story in this Review.

It is interesting to note that Al Ahram, the important morning daily, has been suspended by the Censor this morning October 22nd for printing a strong article in its yesterday's issue condemning Arab delay in aiding the Egyptian army in its present fight with the Jews (See Review of October 21st). The actual reason for his decision is not given by the censor but it is not difficult to guess, seeing that nothing else was printed by the daily yesterday which could have earned it the hot displeasure of the censor.

Al Misri, however, prints to-day two articles in which it cleverly criticises Arab delay in aiding Egypt, without disobeying the censor. One article is headlined: "The bravery of the Egyptian army", and it starts by praising the Egyptian army for its feats in the Southern front. But half way through the article the daily writes: "Although the Security Council issued its cease-fire order three days ago, the Jews did not obey the order deliberately in order to make the Egyptian army continue to bear the burden alone and face the Zionist forces which were withdrawn from other fronts and massed in the Negev area. Yet the Egyptian army has not lost control of the situation. Long live Egypt. Long live the Egyptian army. And may God bless His Majesty the King".

Al Misri's second article is headlined: "Good news". The daily says that the Zionists have thrown all their forces and armour into the fray in the Southern front and that Palestine never witnessed such savage fighting since May 15th. "But this does not mean that the Jews have succeeded in defeating the Egyptian army as the B.B.C. says in its broadcasts which are influenced by Zionist propaganda," continues Al Misri. "The Egyptian army successfully repulsed Jewish attacks and inflicted heavy losses on the wicked enemy."

Resignation of Lebanese Minister
denied.

Al Misri reports that the Lebanese government issued a statement yesterday October 21st, denying that Emir Arslan, Lebanese Minister of Defence, had resigned his post.

Jewish influence in the U.S.A.

Al Assas publishes an editorial written by Senator Al Akaad in which he deprecates Jewish influence in the U.S.A. In the past Jewish influence in Presidential elections had no serious results because the Jews took no special interest in

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"We said yesterday that Arab solidarity was never stronger. We also said that the Arab delegations in Paris were embarrassed because the armed forces of the other Arab countries did not rally to Egypt's support. We are pleased to note that Jewish aggression is now being discussed by the Arab government with a view to extending aid to the Egyptian army. We hope that Arab aid will come from all Arab governments and that it will have practical results. If the Jews knew from the beginning that other Arab countries would rally to Egypt's support, they would have thought twice before attacking Egyptian positions".

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America's foreign policy. But now things are different. The Jews are exercising pressure on the President of the U.S.A. to make him adopt a policy in Palestine which is detrimental to the interests of the U.S.A.

Palestine to become member of the League.

Al Misri says that Syria will ask at the forthcoming meeting of the Arab League Council that the Arab League Convention regarding Palestine be changed. Syria will ask for the special annex on Palestine to be abolished since it is held that Palestine can now be considered as an independent country with a right to participate in the proceedings of the League.

"Police raid on Zionist dens".

Under the above heading, Al Assas reports that Colonel Mohamed Yussuf Bey, head of the Arab section at the Cairo Governorate, accompanied by police officers, raided the Cairo homes of well known Zionists yesterday October 21st. Arrests were made and some papers were confiscated. Names of the suspects are not divulged by the daily.

Britain seeks temporary agreement with Egypt, alleges Al Misri.

Al Misri's London correspondent reports that discussions between the British Foreign Office and the Egyptian Embassy in London have been taking place for the past ten days with a view to concluding a temporary agreement between the two countries which would replace the 1936 Anglo-Egyptian treaty. Should such an agreement be concluded, continues the correspondent, the two parties will proceed to negotiate with each other for a forty-year treaty which would not conflict with Egypt's sovereignty.

Al Misri's correspondent goes on to say that he asked British Under-Secretary Mayhew if the British government was going to recognize the provisional government of Israel in the near future under pressure from the American government. Al Misri's correspondent said that Britain did not shape her foreign policy under pressure from any country and that she had no intention to recognize Israel.

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Trade relations between Egypt
and India.

Al Misri reports that H.E. Dr. Sayed Hussein, the Indian Ambassador to Egypt, is doing his best to improve trade between his country and Egypt. At present, says the daily trade between India and Egypt is confined to the bartering of Indian jute for Egyptian cotton. An Egyptian trade mission will shortly leave for Calcutta to discuss the possibility of bartering Indian jute for Egyptian rice, adds Al Misri.

Al Misri blames Egyptian government for fall in cotton prices.

Al Misri expresses alarm at the fall in the prices of Egyptian cotton. Karnak reached 120 and even 130 dollars but now it is sold at 60 dollars, says the daily which adds that

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there is no justification for optimism and that there is no reason to expect prices to become higher than they are at present. They may even fall further, although there is great demand for Egyptian cotton.

"We wish we can paint a more hopeful picture, but we simply cannot", says Al Misri. "We would not be surprised if Britain is behind this fall in the prices of our cotton. But we hold the Egyptian government responsible, for it should have protected the crop and organised the supply and demand".
